

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION FREE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON SENATE BILL 437

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN PETE EKEGREN**, on April 20, 2001 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 335 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Pete Ekegren, Chairman (R)
Rep. John Brueggeman, Chairman (R)
Rep. Keith Bales (R)
Sen. Mack Cole (R)
Rep. Larry Jent (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Debbie Shea (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Melissa Rasmussen, Committee Secretary
Doug Sternberg, Legislative Branch

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary: SB 437

Discussion:

REP. LARRY JENT declared that the plan was to keep the old section 3 that is now section 1.

SEN. MACK COLE charged that it is obvious that the MT Wildlife Federation is not interested in public hunting on private lands. He suggested going back to the original section 3.

Motion: **SEN. COLE** moved to **GO BACK TO THE ORIGINAL SECTION THREE.**

Discussion:

Doug Sternberg clarified that the committee would be accepting the bill as it came from the House. He stated that the committee would simply need to report that the House amendments be

concurred in. Then the Senate would accept the House amendments.

SEN. COLE revised his motion.

Motion: **SEN. COLE** moved to **CONCUR IN THE HOUSE AMENDMENTS.**

Discussion:

REP. JENT argued that was the intent of **REP. JOHN BRUEGGEMAN.**

REP. KEITH BALES agreed and added there was a fear of losing the bill all together. He stated it is sad that the MT Wildlife Federation feels that a permit is not necessary to allow the public hunting access to private lands. He felt that was a violation of private property rights.

REP. JENT expressed his disappointment for the lack of compromise. He proclaimed that there has been a lot of misinformation given to the public. Section 3 allows some flexibility for game damage hunts.

REP. BRUEGGEMAN stated he was disappointed with the process of the bill. There was a lot of misinformation that made the bill short sighted. People are shutting down their land to hunters. The relationship between hunters and landowners would be harmed by the course the bill had taken. He stated he would support the motion, but he did not like it.

SEN. COLE agreed with **REP. BRUEGGEMAN's** comments. It was his hope that something good would come of this. He stated that when sportsmen realize what the MT Wildlife Federation did to them, they would turn things around.

Mr. Sternberg clarified that the bill would only have to go back to the Senate.

Vote: motion carried 6-0

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 8:17 A.M.

SEN. PETE EKEGREN, Chairman

MELISSA RASMUSSEN, Secretary

PE/JB/MR